MARVEL COMICS
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2099
WORLD OF TOMORROW
THE KILLER AMONGST US!
DIRECT EDITION
$2.50 US $3.50 CAN

BENEATH THE SAVAGE LAND...
FOR MORE THAN TEN MILLENNIA, THIS SHIP--
--A SPACE-FARING VESSEL OF EXTRA TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN--
--HAS RESTED WITHOUT INCIDENT OR INTRUSION BY A SINGLE LIVING CREATURE.
NOT SO ANYMORE.
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME, GUYS!
I MAY HAVE DEACTIVATED THE SHIP'S SELF-DESTRUCT PROTOCOL BY TAKING THE FORM OF THE DEAD ALIEN WE FOUND...
...BUT I CAN'T M-MORPH BACK TO MY TRUE FORM!
DEAL WITH IT, WILLOW!
IT WAS EITHER YOUR BUTT OR THE TEAM'S,
AN ACCEPTABLE LOSS IF YOU ASK ME.
HODGE! YOU INHUMAN--!
IT'S YOUR FAULT SHE IS EVEN IN THIS CONDITION!
COME ON, BLOODHAWK--
--GIMME JUST ONE REASON TO DRAW MY BLASTER--
STOP FIGHTING, YOU GUYS!
GAHH!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING... INSIDE MY MIND... CONTROLLING ME...

HIS TONE IS HUSHED...
EVERY-THING'S COOL, WILLOW.
I'M NOT GONNA LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU.
...HIS CADENCE SOOTHING...
IT'S ME--YOUR BUD--
--WINN.
N-NO! IT'S G-GONNA TOUCH ME...
...INFECT ME.
Stan Lee PRESENTS A GLIMPSE INTO THE WORLD OF TOMORROW!
REVELATIONS

JOE KELLY & BEN RAAB - WRITERS
KARL MOLINE & DAVID BREWER - PENCILERS
JOHN LOWE, JAIME MENDOZA & THE HACK SHACK STUDIOS - INKERS
MICHAEL HIGGINS & THE CHAISE LOUNGE - LETTERS
BRIAN BUCCELLATO - COLORIST
PROFESSOR JAMES FELDER - EDITOR
ROBERT HARRAS - ESQUIRE

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... BUT MUCH TO EVERYONE'S HORROR...
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME--
--MURDERER!
... TOTALLY INEFFECTUAL.
SCHRIP
YOU OKAY, MAN?
I'LL LIVE, NOSTROMO--
--THOUGH I'M LUCKY SHE DIDN'T FINISH ME OFF.
THOSE ALIEN EYES...
...DID SHE SEE?

HIS TONE IS HUSHED...

EVERY-THING'S COOL, WILLOW.

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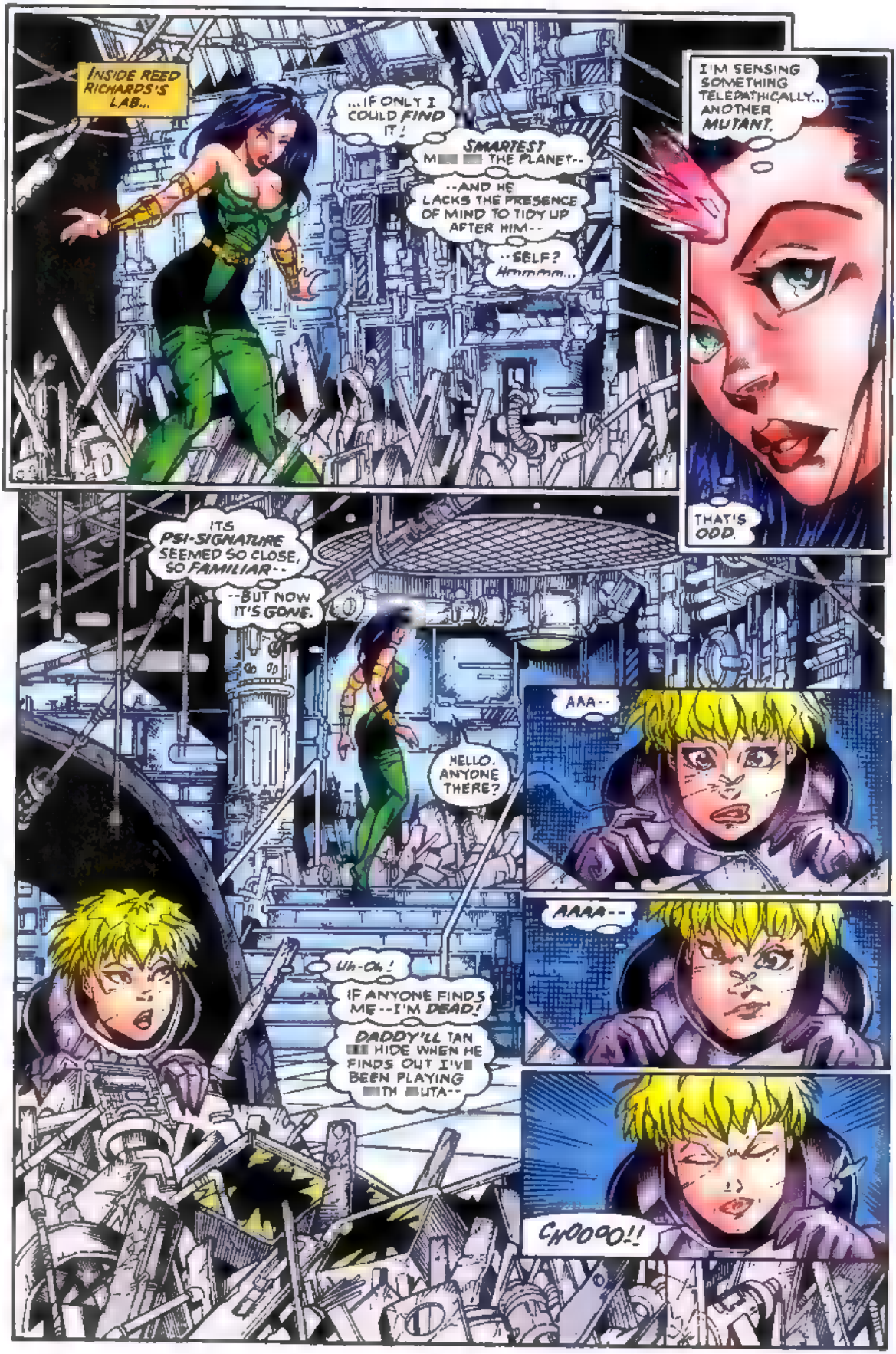
I KNEW YOU FILTHY GENE JOKES COULDN'T BE TRUSTED!
DON'T CARE IF THAT THING'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL--
--SHE'S GOIN' DOWN!!!
ZARK
SHAZAK
RRRRR--
WITH BARELY A YARD BETWEEN THEM...
...HODGE HAS NO ROOM TO MANEUVER.
RRRRRR!
LUCKILY...
CHILL, GIRLFRIEND!
... THE SAVAGE LUNATICA DOES.
YOU'RE GONNA HURT SOMEONE MESSIN' LIKE THAT!
WHAM
CORRECTION--
--I'M GONNA HURT SOMEONE!

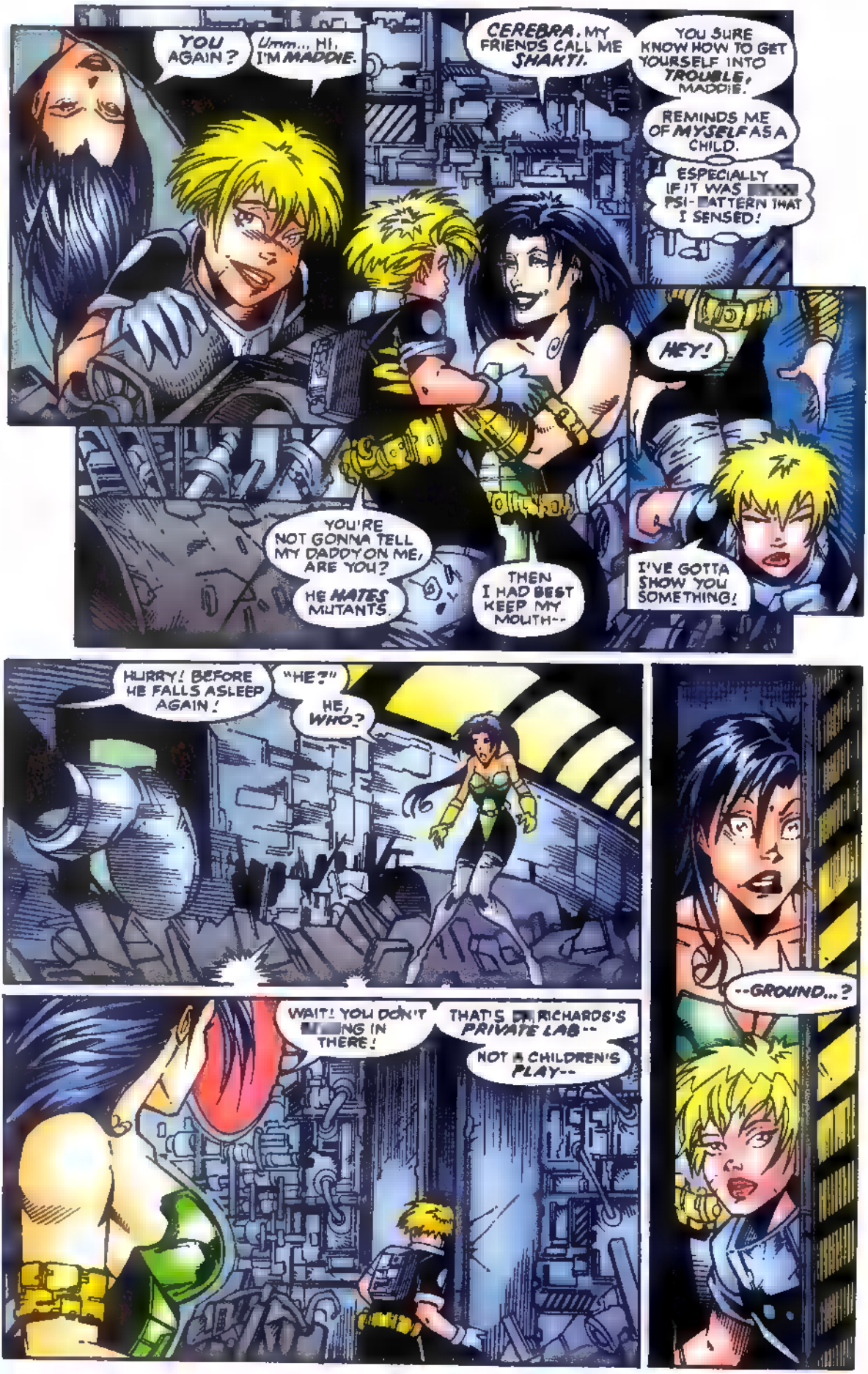
LOOK AT 'IM, MAN. HE AIN'T MOVED FOR DAYS.
CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, TRASH... DON'T WANNA OFF NOBODY IN THE GAUNTLET.
CHUMP... I DON'T GET WHY THE BIG BOSS HASN'T LET US WHACK HIM YET.
HEY, BET YOU I CAN GET HIM FROM HERE.
SNORT
YO UPROAR! WAKE UP CALL!
MAYBE TODAY YOU'LL DO THE JOB AND FIGHT LIKE YOU GOT A PAIR.
IN THE MIDDLE OF A BLUE, BLUE OCEAN...
...IS A BIG, BIG SHIP...
... WITH A DEEP, DEEP HOLE...
PFUI
...AND ONE...
...MAD...
...MUTANT!
DORIAN! COME DOWN HERE AND I'LL RIP YOUR DAMN HEAD OFF--!!
I WILL NOT PLAY YOUR SICK GAMES, WILD BOYZ! I SWEAR IT!

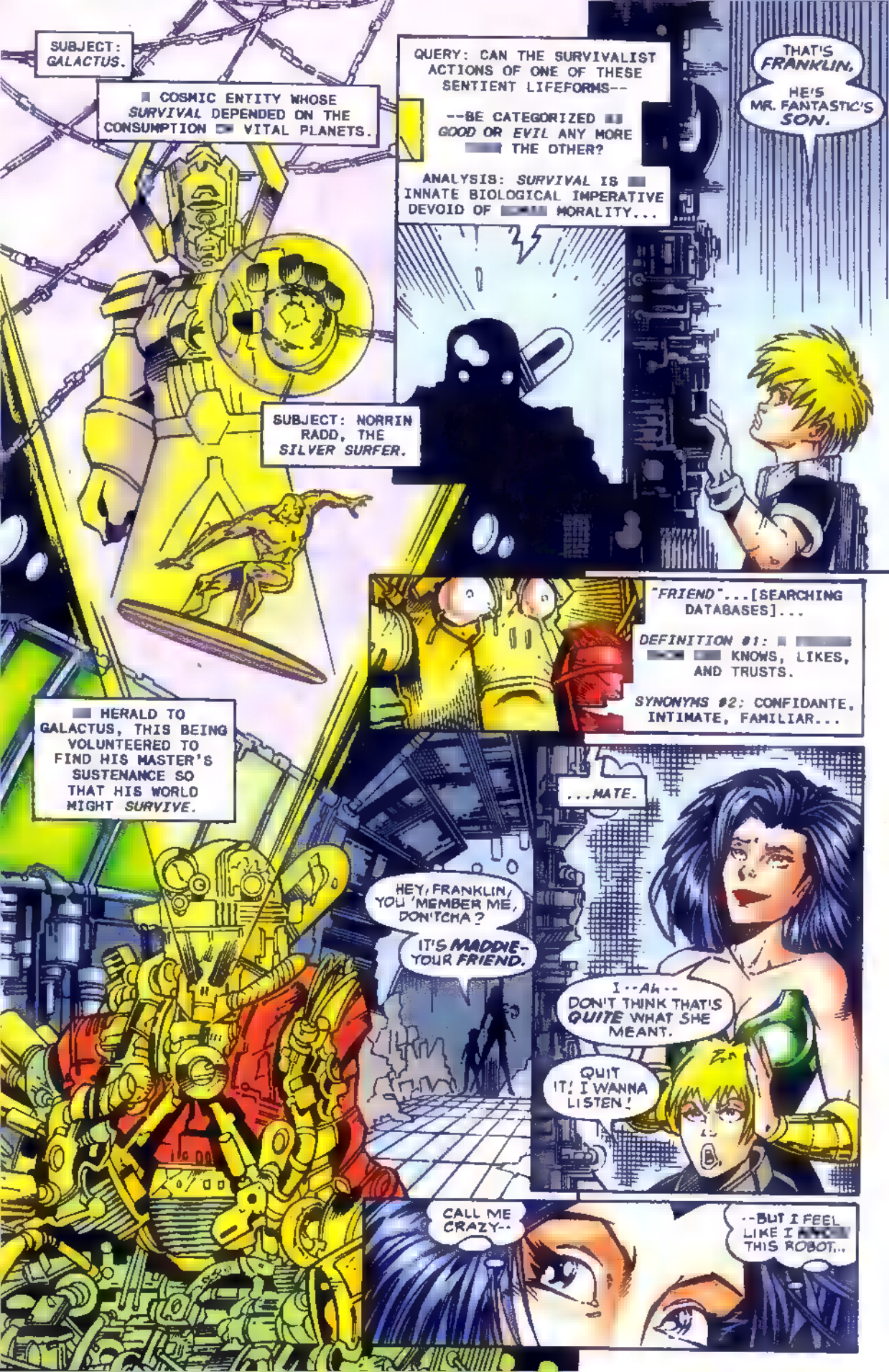
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GO LIKE THIS.
I THOUGHT IF I HAD YOU THROWN IN THE GAUNTLET, YOU'D STAND A CHANCE.
BUT LOOK AT YOU!
WHO'S THERE?
WHOEVER IT IS, I'M GONNA SLAP YOU IN TWO SOON AS I GET THIS POWER DAMPENING COLLAR OFF!
AND POOR WULFF.
WULFF? LITTLE BUD? DID HE... IN THE GAUNTLET...?
IS WULFF DEAD?
ANSWER ME!!! WHAT HAPPENED TO WULFF?
WULFF!!!
NOT DEAD, UPROAR... BUT WORSE. MUCH WORSE...

IN THE HEART OF THE SAVAGE LAND, AN ANGRY MOB DISRUPTS THE FRAGILE PEACE OF THE LAST REFUGE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE GONE?! WHAT DID YOU STINKIN' MUTIES DO WITH THEM?!
IF YOU WOULD JUST SETTLE DOWN, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW--
KRYSTALIN
CEREBRA
XI'AN
METALHEAD
I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO RUSH US.
LET THEM TRY. I BEG YOU.
YOU'D THINK THE "MUTIE BAD" SCHTICK WOULD'VE GONE THE WAY OF DISCO BY NOW.
TOGETHER THEY ARE THE X-MEN.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONFUSION AND FEAR... I SHARE IT! THE FF WERE HEROES LONG BEFORE I WAS EVER BORN--
--BUT THEY HAD TO RETURN TO THEIR OWN TIME! NOW WE ARE FACED WITH A CHALLENGE IN THE FACE OF THEIR DEPARTURE--
YOU MEAN THEIR MURDER, YOU GENESCRAPE WITCH!!
KRAKK
ENOUGH!!

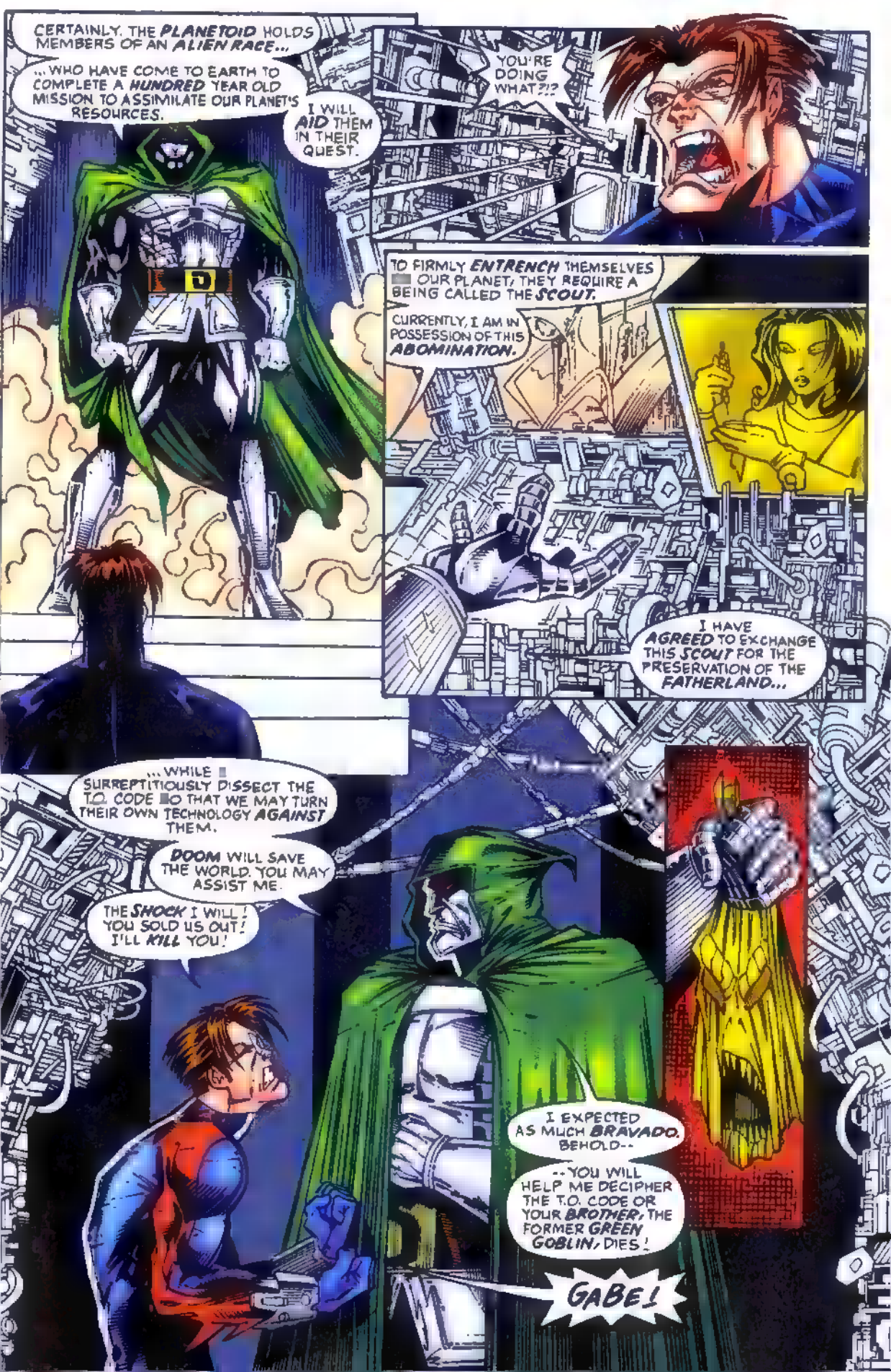
XI'AN, LOOK--
"VICTOR TEN EAGLES!"
THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME HERE FOR BLOOD... GO HOME BEFORE YOU FIND YOUR OWN SPILLED!
THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME HERE FOR ANSWERS, SHUT UP AND LISTEN TO THE X-MEN!
IF WE'RE GOING TO SURVIVE THIS HARSH NEW WORLD, THE ENMITY BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS MUST END.
I'M HUMAN, LIKE ALL OF YOU, BUT I TRUST THESE PEOPLE WITH MY LIFE. IF YOU HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR LIFE...
...YOU'LL DO THE SAME.
GOOD TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND.
NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION... REED RICHARDS HAS LEFT BEHIND A LEGACY! HE LEFT US HIS INDOMITABLE SPIRIT.
HE LEFT US HIS HOPE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS FUTURE...
...AND FINALLY, HE LEFT US A TOOL TO HELP US THROUGH THESE TUMULTUOUS TIMES...


INSIDE REED RICHARDS'S LAB...
...IF ONLY I COULD FIND IT!
SMARTEST M[illegible] THE PLANET--
--AND HE LACKS THE PRESENCE OF MIND TO TIDY UP AFTER HIM--
--SELF? Hmmmm...
I'M SENSING SOMETHING TELEPATHICALLY... ANOTHER MUTANT.
THAT'S ODD.
IT'S PSI-SIGNATURE SEEMED SO CLOSE, SO FAMILIAR--
--BUT NOW IT'S GONE.
HELLO. ANYONE THERE?
AAA--
AAAA--
Uh-Oh!
IF ANYONE FINDS ME--I'M DEAD!
DADDY'LL TAN [illegible] HIDE WHEN HE FINDS OUT I'V[illegible] BEEN PLAYING [illegible]TH [illegible]UTA--
CHOOOO!!


YOU AGAIN?
Umm... HI, I'M MADDIE.
CEREBRA. MY FRIENDS CALL ME SHAKTI.
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO GET YOURSELF INTO TROUBLE, MADDIE.
REMINDS ME OF MYSELF AS A CHILD.
ESPECIALLY IF IT WAS [redacted] PSI-PATTERN THAT I SENSED!
HEY!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL MY DADDY ON ME, ARE YOU?
HE HATES MUTANTS.
THEN I HAD BEST KEEP MY MOUTH--
I'VE GOTTA SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
HURRY! BEFORE HE FALLS ASLEEP AGAIN!
"HE?"
HE, WHO?
--GROUND...?
WAIT! YOU DON'T [redacted]NG IN THERE!
THAT'S DR. RICHARDS'S PRIVATE LAB--
NOT A CHILDREN'S PLAY--


SUBJECT: GALACTUS.
A COSMIC ENTITY WHOSE SURVIVAL DEPENDED ON THE CONSUMPTION OF VITAL PLANETS.
SUBJECT: NORRIN RADD, THE SILVER SURFER.
QUERY: CAN THE SURVIVALIST ACTIONS OF ONE OF THESE SENTIENT LIFEFORMS--
--BE CATEGORIZED AS GOOD OR EVIL ANY MORE THAN THE OTHER?
ANALYSIS: SURVIVAL IS AN INNATE BIOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE DEVOID OF ANY MORALITY...
THAT'S FRANKLIN.
HE'S MR. FANTASTIC'S SON.
"FRIEND"...[SEARCHING DATABASES]...
DEFINITION #1: ONE WHOM ONE KNOWS, LIKES, AND TRUSTS.
SYNONYMS #2: CONFIDANTE, INTIMATE, FAMILIAR...
A HERALD TO GALACTUS, THIS BEING VOLUNTEERED TO FIND HIS MASTER'S SUSTENANCE SO THAT HIS WORLD MIGHT SURVIVE.
HEY, FRANKLIN, YOU 'MEMBER ME, DON'TCHA?
IT'S MADDIE-YOUR FRIEND.
...MATE.
I--Ah--DON'T THINK THAT'S QUITE WHAT SHE MEANT.
QUIT IT! I WANNA LISTEN!
CALL ME CRAZY--
--BUT I FEEL LIKE I KNOW THIS ROBOT...

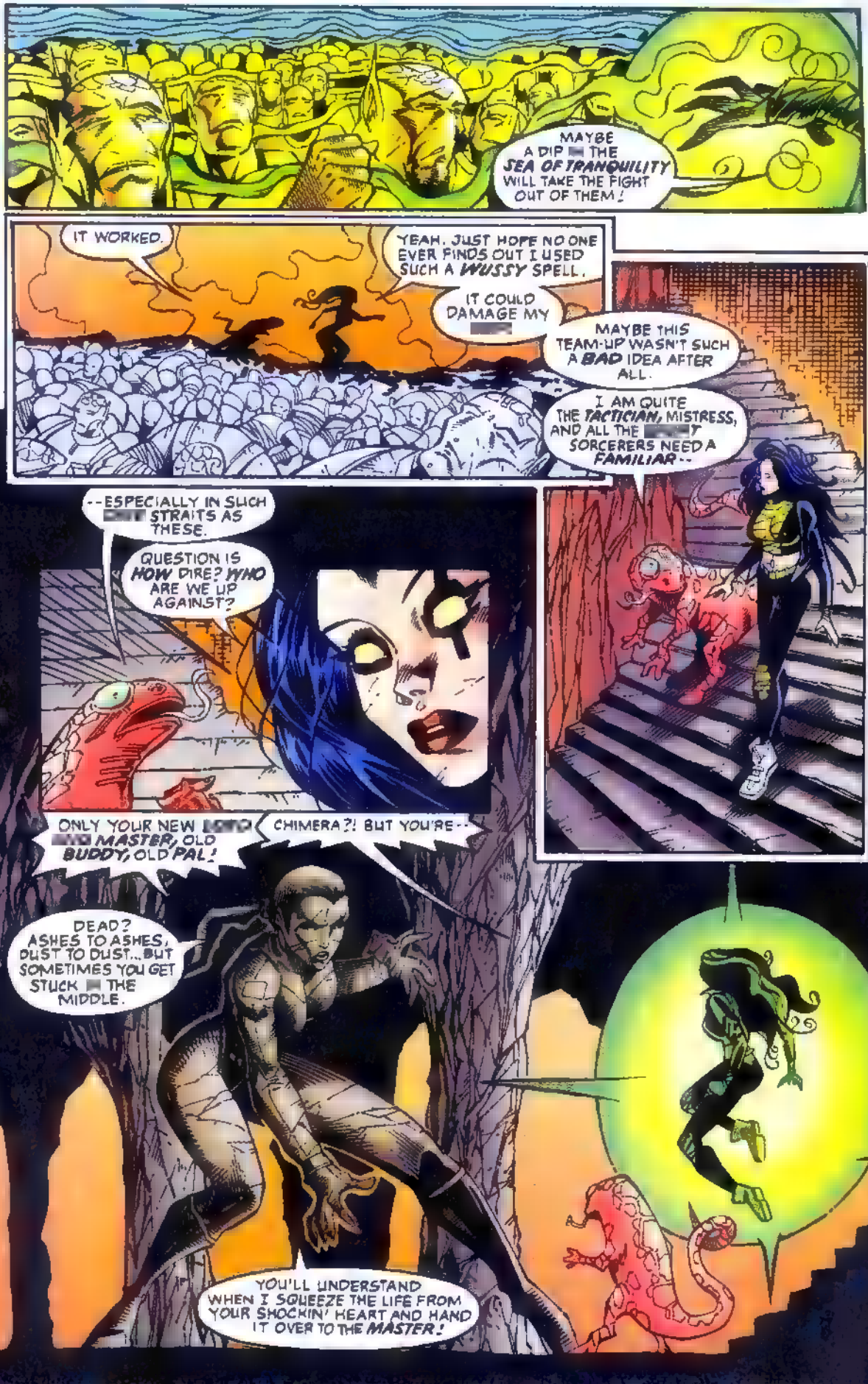
CASTLE DOOM.
COMFORTABLE, MR. O'HARA--?
WHERE AN AUDIENCE WITH ITS SOVEREIGN IS RUMORED TO MEAN ONE OF TWO THINGS:
DEATH...
...OR PAINFUL DEATH.
--OR DO YOU PREFER SPIDER-MAN? SOCIAL AMENITIES BECOME SO BLURRY ONCE ONE'S IDENTITY IS EXPOSED.
LOOK IT UP IN MISS MANNERS, DOOM--
--YOU SHOCKIN' CYBERNETIC PSYCHO.
ALLITERATION. QUAINT.
YOU WILL BE RELIEVED TO KNOW THAT I HAVE NOT BROUGHT YOU HERE TO EXTRACT INFORMATION, O'HARA.
WHOOPIE.
NOTHING YOU HAVE DONE HAS GONE BEYOND DOOM'S KEN.
YOU CAME TO THE FATHERLAND LOOKING FOR THE SOURCE OF A TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS.
YOU HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE TRUE WELLSPRING OF THE VIRUS IS THE PLANETOID ORBITING EARTH--
BET YOU KNOW WHAT COLOR MY SPIDEY-SHORTS ARE TOO! SKIP TO THE POINT.


CERTAINLY. THE PLANETOID HOLDS MEMBERS OF AN ALIEN RACE...
...WHO HAVE COME TO EARTH TO COMPLETE A HUNDRED YEAR OLD MISSION TO ASSIMILATE OUR PLANET'S RESOURCES.
I WILL AID THEM IN THEIR QUEST.
YOU'RE DOING WHAT?!?
TO FIRMLY ENTRENCH THEMSELVES [redacted] OUR PLANET, THEY REQUIRE A BEING CALLED THE SCOUT.
CURRENTLY, I AM IN POSSESSION OF THIS ABOMINATION.
I HAVE AGREED TO EXCHANGE THIS SCOUT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE FATHERLAND...
...WHILE [redacted] SURREPTITIOUSLY DISSECT THE T.O. CODE [redacted] SO THAT WE MAY TURN THEIR OWN TECHNOLOGY AGAINST THEM.
DOOM WILL SAVE THE WORLD. YOU MAY ASSIST ME.
THE SHOCK I WILL! YOU SOLD US OUT! I'LL KILL YOU!
I EXPECTED AS MUCH BRAVADO. BEHOLD--
--YOU WILL HELP ME DECIPHER THE T.O. CODE OR YOUR BROTHER, THE FORMER GREEN GOBLIN, DIES!
GABE!

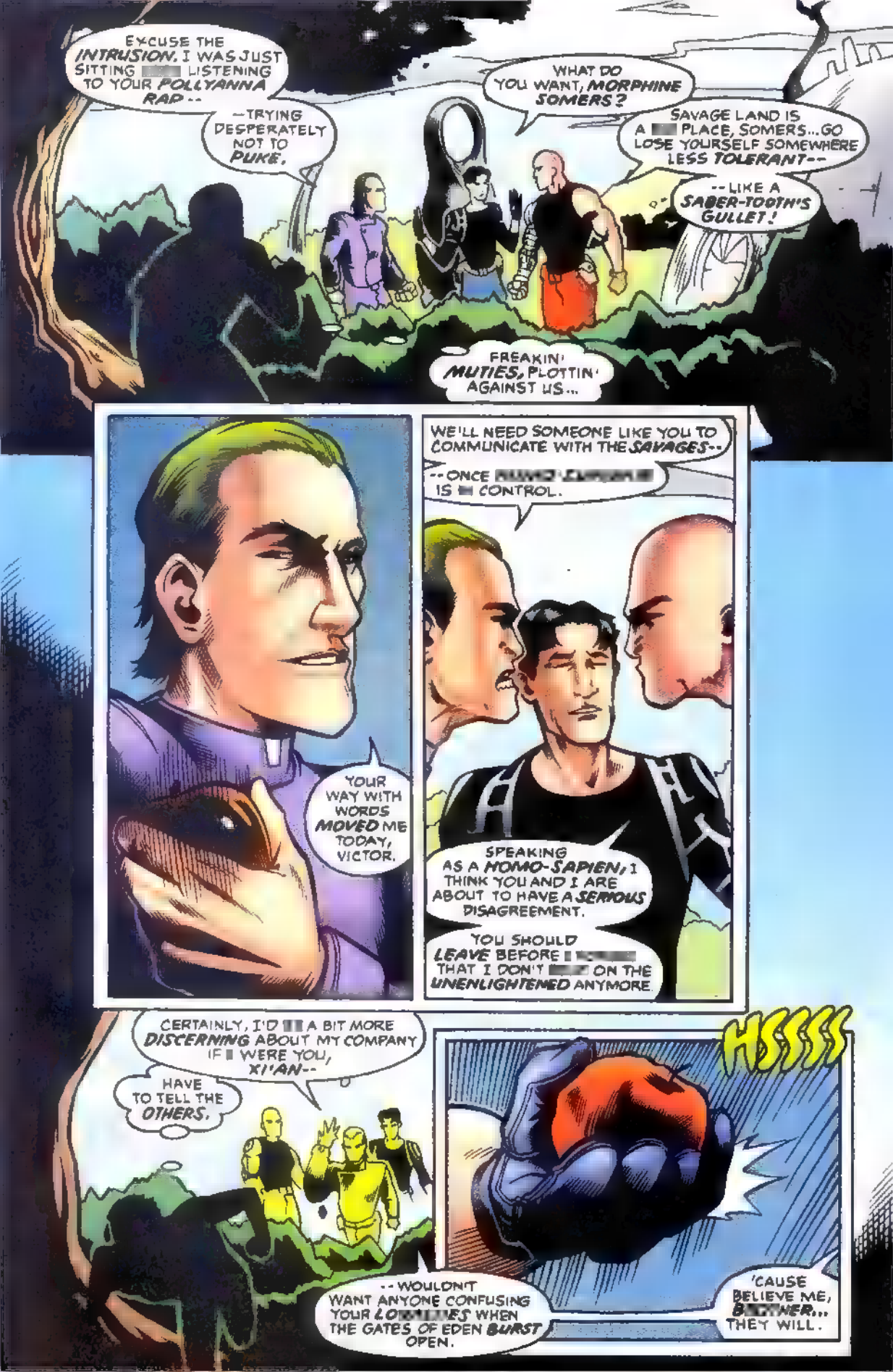
MARS...
...WHERE THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF ALCHEMAX'S [redacted] COLONY...
PAAADREEE!
...ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE A RATHER RUDE AWAKENING...
...COURTESY OF THE GLOBALLY-DISPLACED YOUNG MUTANTS OF X-NATION.
I'M ONLY SLEEPING, DECEMBER.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WAKE THE DEAD--
BUT, FATHER JENNIFER--
--SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED!
FOOM
WHAT IN THE SHOCKIN' NAME OF THOR IS GOING ON HERE?!
CERTAINLY NOT ANY SLEEPING, RIGHT, MOON?
ZIP IT, ISAACS.
IT'S TWILIGHT, CAPTAIN PIKE--
--THE TAKERS GOT HER!
THE TAKERS, HUH? TOO BAD ABOUT YOUR FRIEND--
--BUT WE WARNED YOU KIDS NOT TO STRAY OUTSIDE THE COMPOUND!
MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU'LL LISTEN...
OH, YEAH? WELL, SMITH AND I ARE GOIN' AFTER HER--
--WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE, KID.
WE'VE GOT WETWARE DROIDS POSTED AT EVERY CHECKPOINT ON THIS BASE.
SO DON'T THINK I'M GONNA LOSE ANY SLEEP IF YOU VOLUNTEER FOR TARGET PRACTICE--
--'CAUSE THEY NEVER MISS.
YOU MIGHT BE JUMPING THE GUN HERE, Y'KNOW.
MAYBE TWILIGHT JUST NEEDED SOME TIME TO HERSELF?
I TELL YOU WHAT, KIDS...
YOU GO BACK TO BED AND LET ME TALK TO CAPTAIN PIKE.
I DO HAVE SOME JUICE WITH THE MAN UPSTAIRS, AFTER ALL.
Uh-huh. RIGHT. ABSOLUTELY.
YAWWWN! I'M SUDDENLY SOOO EXHAUSTED!
YEAH... MAYBE...
COME TO THINK OF IT-- -- I'M FEEL A BIT ROCKET-LAGGED MYSELF.
TOTALLY BEAT.
TOOOTALLY.
"TOTALLY BEAT," EH?
Hmmm...

MILES BELOW THE EARTH'S CRUST..
BATTLE ALREADY IN PROGRESS...
MISTRESS, THE [illegible]-MEN ARE STRONG AND THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THEM..
...BUT PERHAPS THESE SIMPLE CREATURES WILL PROVE MORE RESPONSIVE TO GENTLE PERSUASION THAN--
KTHAK
--BRUTE FORCE.
MIGHT BE RIGHT, UMI! EVEN WITH A RAIN OF IGNATIUS'S INFERNO, THESE PERVS ARE ALL TOUCHY-FEELY!
MAYBE I CAN WHIP UP A SPELL THAT'LL GIVE THEM THE GROUP DISCOUNT.
MLLE. STRANGE, SORCERESS SUPREME, AND HER UNLIKELY ALLY, UMI, STAVE OFF A SUBTERRANEAN ASSAULT--
..ON A QUEST TO FERRET OUT THE MYSTERIOUS BEING WHO HAS BESIEGED THEM.
'TAINT BEEN NO PICNIC.
HELL, ANYTHING'S WORTH A TRY AT THIS POINT...

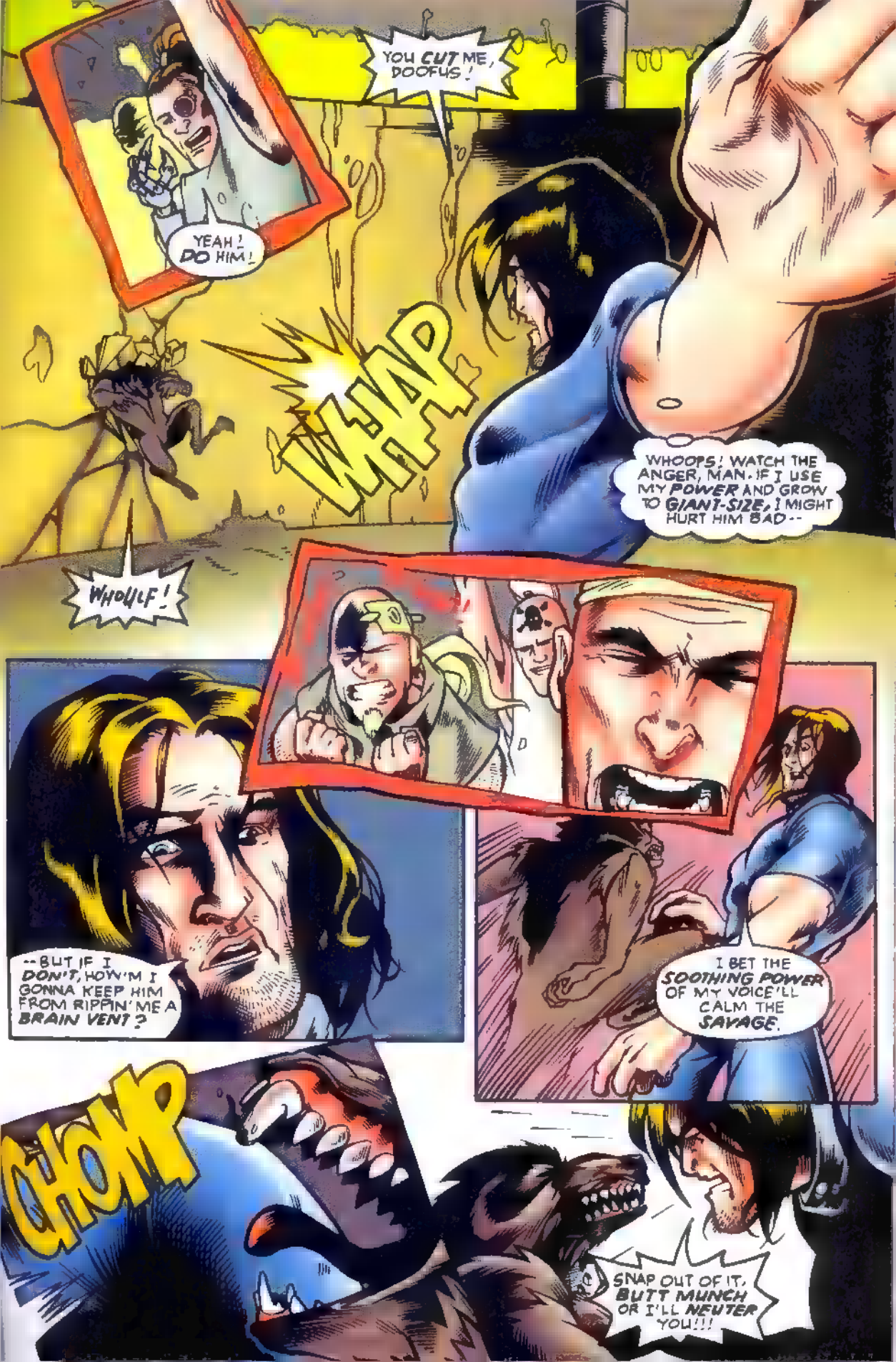

MAYBE A DIP IN THE SEA OF TRANQUILITY WILL TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF THEM!
IT WORKED.
YEAH. JUST HOPE NO ONE EVER FINDS OUT I USED SUCH A WUSSY SPELL.
IT COULD DAMAGE MY [redacted]
MAYBE THIS TEAM-UP WASN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL.
I AM QUITE THE TACTICIAN, MISTRESS, AND ALL THE [redacted]Y SORCERERS NEED A FAMILIAR--
--ESPECIALLY IN SUCH [redacted] STRAITS AS THESE.
QUESTION IS HOW DIRE? WHO ARE WE UP AGAINST?
ONLY YOUR NEW [redacted] MASTER, OLD BUDDY, OLD PAL!
CHIMERA?! BUT YOU'RE--
DEAD? ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST... BUT SOMETIMES YOU GET STUCK IN THE MIDDLE.
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN I SQUEEZE THE LIFE FROM YOUR SHOCKIN' HEART AND HAND IT OVER TO THE MASTER!

OUTSIDE OF LAST REFUGE...
GLAD THAT YOU MADE IT, VICTOR. THIS PLACE NEEDS YOU.
HERE IT COMES, THE SAVE-THE-WORLD-WITH-ME-VICTOR SPEECH.
NO, NOT THIS TIME. I'M NOT ON ANY QUESTS, NOT PLAYING POLITICS.
I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE. CEREBRA'S THE ONE WITH THE VISION.
RIGHT... THE DAY YOU GIVE UP THE FIGHT IS THE DAY I GIVE UP THE GHOST.
EVEN AN OLD DISGRUNTLED MISFIT LIKE ME STILL BELIEVES THAT ONE DAY WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
I WISH I SHARED YOUR CONFIDENCE IN SO-CALLED HUMANITY, BUT JUST LOOK AT THEM...
THE ENTIRE WORLD IS GONE MAD. ALL THE RULES HAVE CHANGED..
...YET THEY STILL CLING TO PETTY PREJUDICE AND IGNORANCE. THIS COULD A PARADISE, VICTOR, BUT--
BUT THERE ARE IN THE GARDEN, Eh, XI'AN ?


EXCUSE THE INTRUSION. I WAS JUST SITTING [redacted] LISTENING TO YOUR POLLYANNA RAP--
--TRYING DESPERATELY NOT TO PUKE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MORPHINE SOMERS?
SAVAGE LAND IS A [redacted] PLACE, SOMERS...GO LOSE YOURSELF SOMEWHERE LESS TOLERANT--
--LIKE A SABER-TOOTH'S GULLET!
FREAKIN' MUTIES, PLOTTIN' AGAINST US...
YOUR WAY WITH WORDS MOVED ME TODAY, VICTOR.
WE'LL NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE SAVAGES--
--ONCE [redacted] IS [redacted] CONTROL.
SPEAKING AS A HOMO-SAPIEN, I THINK YOU AND I ARE ABOUT TO HAVE A SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT.
YOU SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE I [redacted] THAT I DON'T [redacted] ON THE UNENLIGHTENED ANYMORE.
CERTAINLY, I'D [redacted] A BIT MORE DISCERNING ABOUT MY COMPANY IF I WERE YOU, XI'AN--
HAVE TO TELL THE OTHERS.
HSSSS
--WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE CONFUSING YOUR LO[redacted]IES WHEN THE GATES OF EDEN BURST OPEN.
'CAUSE BELIEVE ME, B[redacted]HER... THEY WILL.

BACK IN THE BLUE, BLUE OCEAN...
...ON THE BIG, BIG SHIP...
...A VERY, VERY DANGEROUS GAME BEGINS...
LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE PASSIVE PUGILIST, MATIES!
WE'VE SEEN THE MASSIVE MILKSOP TRASH SIX OPPONENTS ON THE TRAIL TO GLORY...
...BUT [redacted] STILL REFUSES TO KILL FOR HIS FREEDOM.
WILL IT BE TODAY IN THE [redacted] MATCH OF THE MILLENNIUM?!
GONNA COME THROUGH THIS TIME, DULL ROAR? ONLY TAKES ONE AN' YOU MOVE [redacted] TO THE NEXT ROUND.
GO BLOW.
Oooh, STILL FEISTY. NO MATTER, YOU'RE OFF TO MEET WHATEVER UNTALENTED MAKER FASHIONED YOU.
BUT TAKE HEART, 'CAUSE YOU'LL [redacted] THE MAIDEN VOYAGE FOR A NEW AND IMPROVED WILD BOY.
WHAT, YOU STUCK WARBIRD IN A DRESS?
NAW. BETTER..
IT CAN'T BE...
RAWR!

GRRRR!
AN ALREADY TWISTED WORLD TURNS UNBEARABLY DERANGED IN AN INSTANT.
ALL LOGIC FLEES UPROAR'S MIND AS HE LOOKS ACROSS THE ARENA AT A WILD SNARLING DEMON...
... AND SEES HIS BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD.
SHRIEK
WULFF?!
WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?
C'MON, BRO! I KNOW YOU COULD NEVER HURT ME!


YOU CUT ME, DOOFUS!
YEAH! DO HIM!
WHAP
WHOOPS! WATCH THE ANGER, MAN. IF I USE MY POWER AND GROW TO GIANT-SIZE, I MIGHT HURT HIM BAD--
WHOLLF!
--BUT IF I DON'T, HOW'M I GONNA KEEP HIM FROM RIPPIN' ME A BRAIN VENT?
I BET THE SOOTHING POWER OF MY VOICE'LL CALM THE SAVAGE.
CHOMP
SNAP OUT OF IT, BUTT MUNCH OR I'LL NEUTER YOU!!!

RRR--?
I'LL CHOP YOU INTO DOG FOOD.
I'LL NAIL YOU TO THE ENDANGER[redacted] LIST! I'LL--
ROAR? UP-ROAR?
BOO-YA! THE WULFF-MAN RETURNETH!
UPROAR? WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT DID THEY--?
OH, GOD... I'M A DOG AGAIN... A FILTHY DOG.
GET THOSE COLLARS BACK ON-LINE, SHIV.
WHO SHOCKIN' DID THIS TO ME?
DEAD AND DEADER.
THE COLLARS ARE OFF. SO ARE THE KID GLOVES. LET'S [redacted] IT TO IT.
GULP
GULP

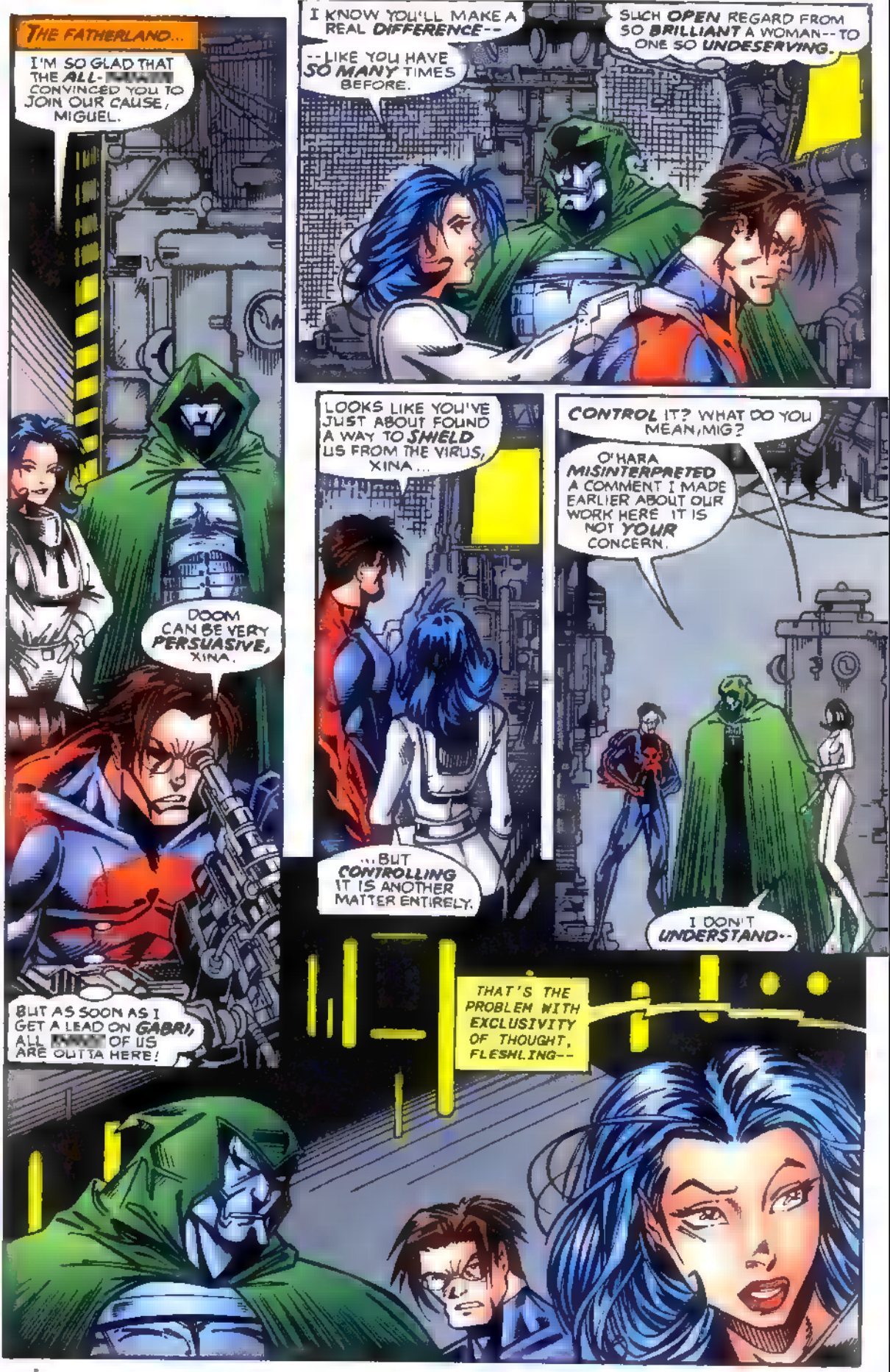
HE'S BALLISTIC!
KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME!
RAUGH!
ATTENTION, FREAKS! FOLLOW YOUR SERVING WENCHES TO THE CLEARLY MARKED EXITS...
...BEFORE I INCREASE THE CABIN PRESSURE IN YOUR HEADS!
I'M GONNA FRY YOUR OVERGROWN HIDE, SQUIB.
MAMMA ALWAYS TAUGHT ME NOT TO PICK ON GUYS SMALLER [redacted] ME...
...BUT THEN I DO HAVE THAT [redacted].
KRUNCH
WOMP
YOU WANTED THE [redacted] BACK, DORIAN?! THE SLAVE?! YOU WANTED THE FANG, THE TOOTH, THE BLOOD?
NO...PLEASE, WULFF--
SKLITCH
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BINKY!

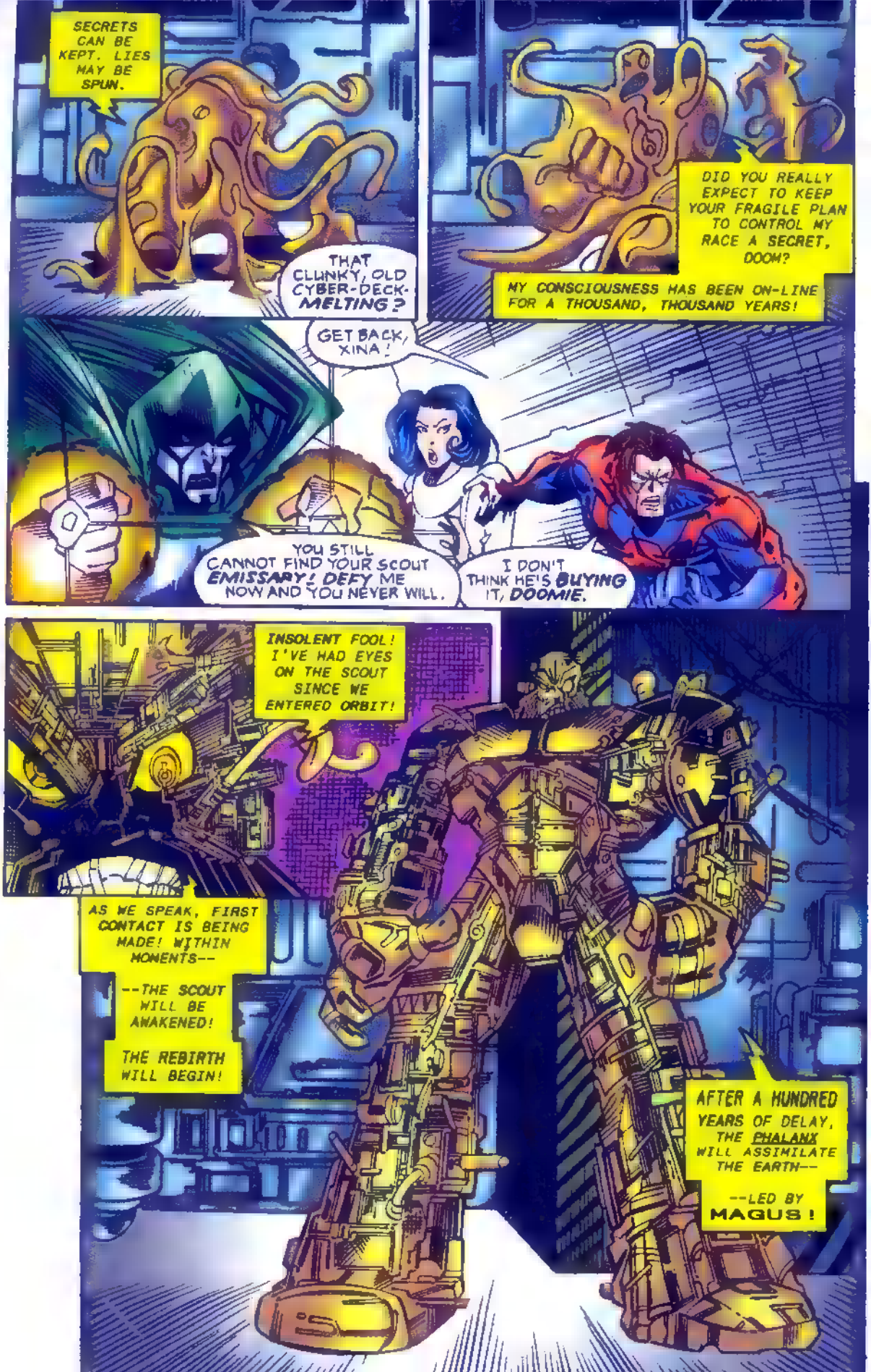
Whoa, DUDE, RIGHTEOUS WOUND.
IT'S A START.
IF YOU WANT TO SEE TOMORROW, IT BETTER ALSO BE THE FINISH!
FIONA?!
YOU KNOW HER?! SHE'S THE LEG THAT DUMPED US IN THE HOLE!
I'M ALSO THE WOMAN WHO DISABLED YOUR POWER DAMPENING COLLARS, YOU VID?
SO STOP GAWKIN' AND LET'S [redacted] FOOT IT OUT--
WE GO NOWHERE WITH YOU, BABE!
MY MAIN [redacted] AN' I ARE CATCHIN' THE FIRST SKIFF OUTTA THIS PIDDLY PORT--
WRONG, SHRINKY-DINK!
I GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE, [redacted] TIME!
AN' I AIN'T LEAVIN' HERE TILL I DANCE ON THE [redacted] THE [redacted].

UNDERGROUND.
RRROAOARRR!!
UH... SHE AIN'T GETTIN' ANY TAMER, HAWK.
THEN [redacted] MUST MATCH [redacted] SAVAGERY, LUNA.
PUNCH FOR PUNCH--
--BLOW FOR BLOW!!!
FORGIVE ME, LITTLE ONE--
FWOOSH
--BUT YOU LEAVE [redacted] CHOICE!
KRA-SH
SPLASH
WADE CAUTIOUSLY, FRIENDS.
WILLOW [redacted] SIGNIFICANTLY RESILIENT--
--WHILE TRAPPED IN THIS ALIEN'S FORM.
HANG BACK, GUYS--
--LET ME TALK TO HER.
IT'S NOS, BABE.
LOOK, [redacted] WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH--

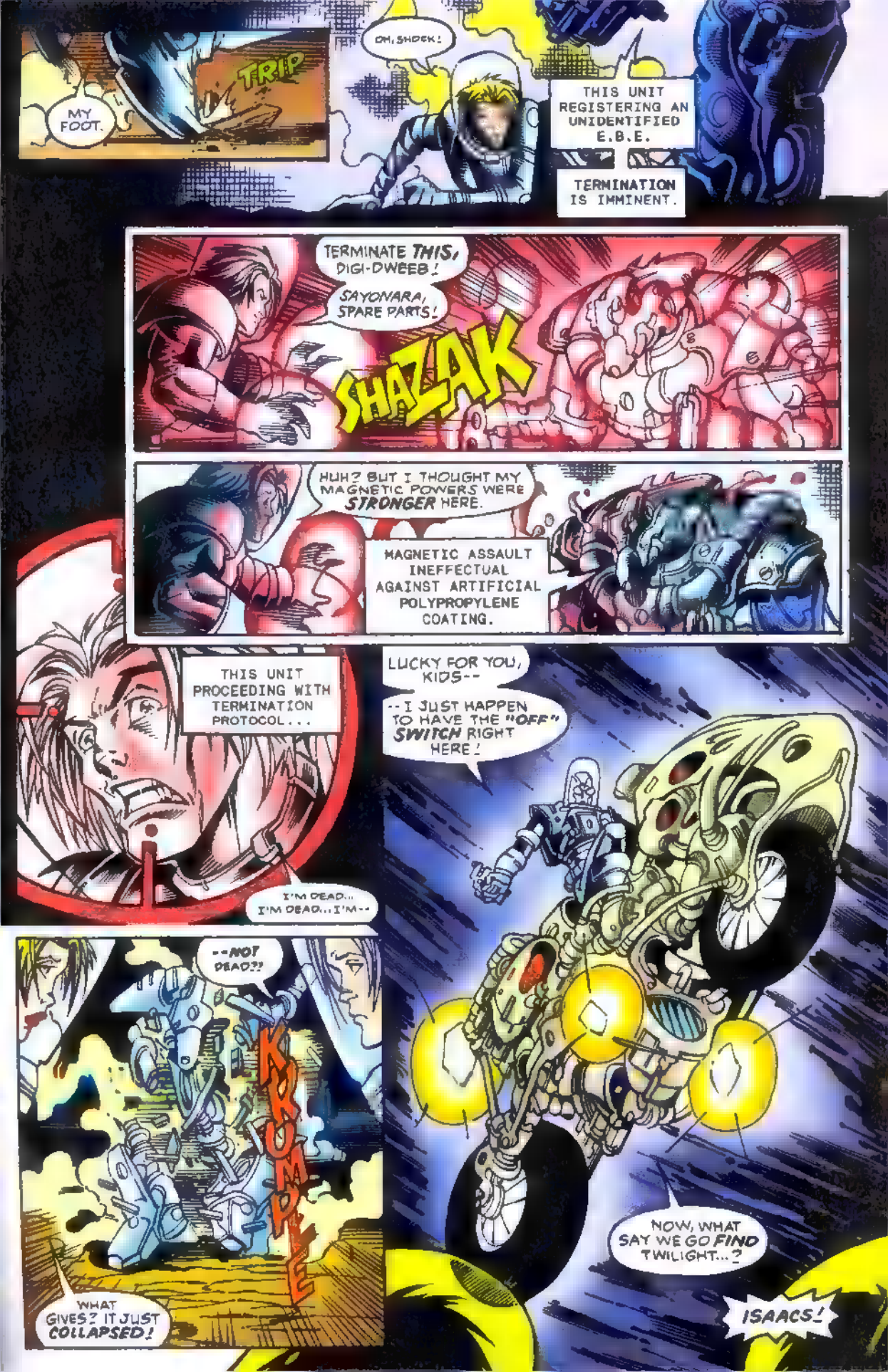
-- BUT YOU'VE GOTTA KEEP IT TOGETHER.
SPLISH
WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHING AT THE BOY'S FEET...
NOSTROMO--
!!
TOO LATE.
GLOOMPH!
SPLOOSH
GAAH!
FIGHT IT, WILLOW!
THE MONSTER INSIDE CAN'T CONSUME YOU--
--IF YOU DON'T LET IT!!
ONLY ONE WAY FOR ME TO THIS.
GOTTA GET INSIDE WILLOW'S AD--
RAWWRR!!!
SPLASH
--USE MY TECHNOPATHY TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE BEAST!
I JUST HOPE I DON'T KILL US BOTH...

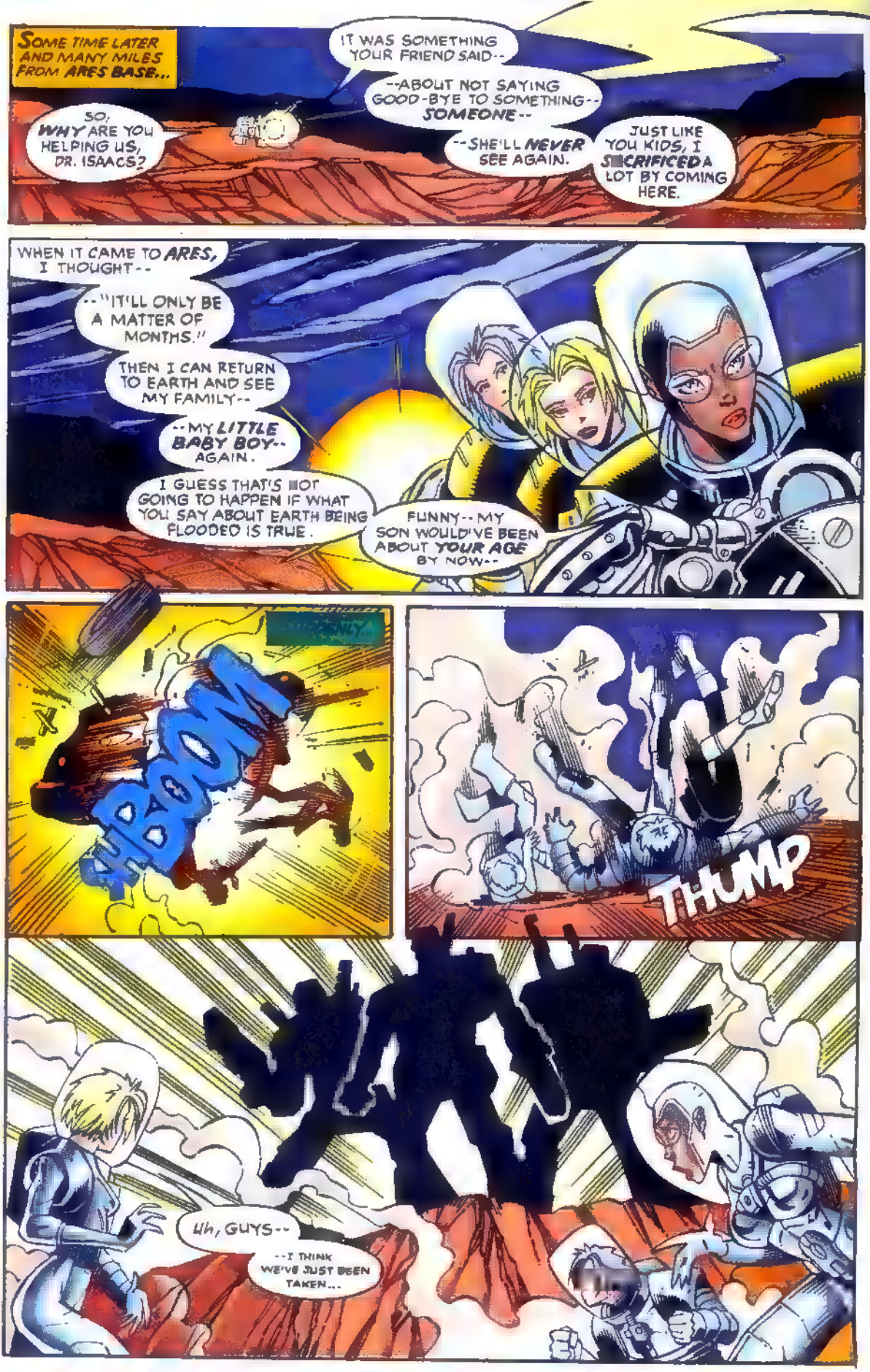
NOSTROMO!!!
THOSE KIDS SHOULDN'T BE RISKING THEIR LIVES OUT HERE WITH US.
THEY SHOULD BE HOME, PLAYIN' PRANKS ON THEIR PALS--
--OR, BETTER YET--ON SLUGS LIKE MORPHINE SOMERS!
IF... I MEAN, WHEN... WE GOT BACK TO THE RELATIVE SAFETY OF THE REFUGE--
--I'M HAVIN' WORDS WITH CEREBRA--
Koff-Koff! Hak-Hak!
THINK SO.
NOS'S PSIONIC RAPPORT YANKED THE ALIEN'S PRESENCE OUTTA ME.
OH LUNA--I TH-THINK I KILLED HIM...
WELL I'LL BE--WILLOW!
EASY, GAL--
--ARE YOU, Uh, YOU AGAIN?
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
POOR GIRL. SHE'S REALLY SHOOK UP.
AS IF SHE COULD KILL ONE OF HER BEST--
--FRIENDS...?

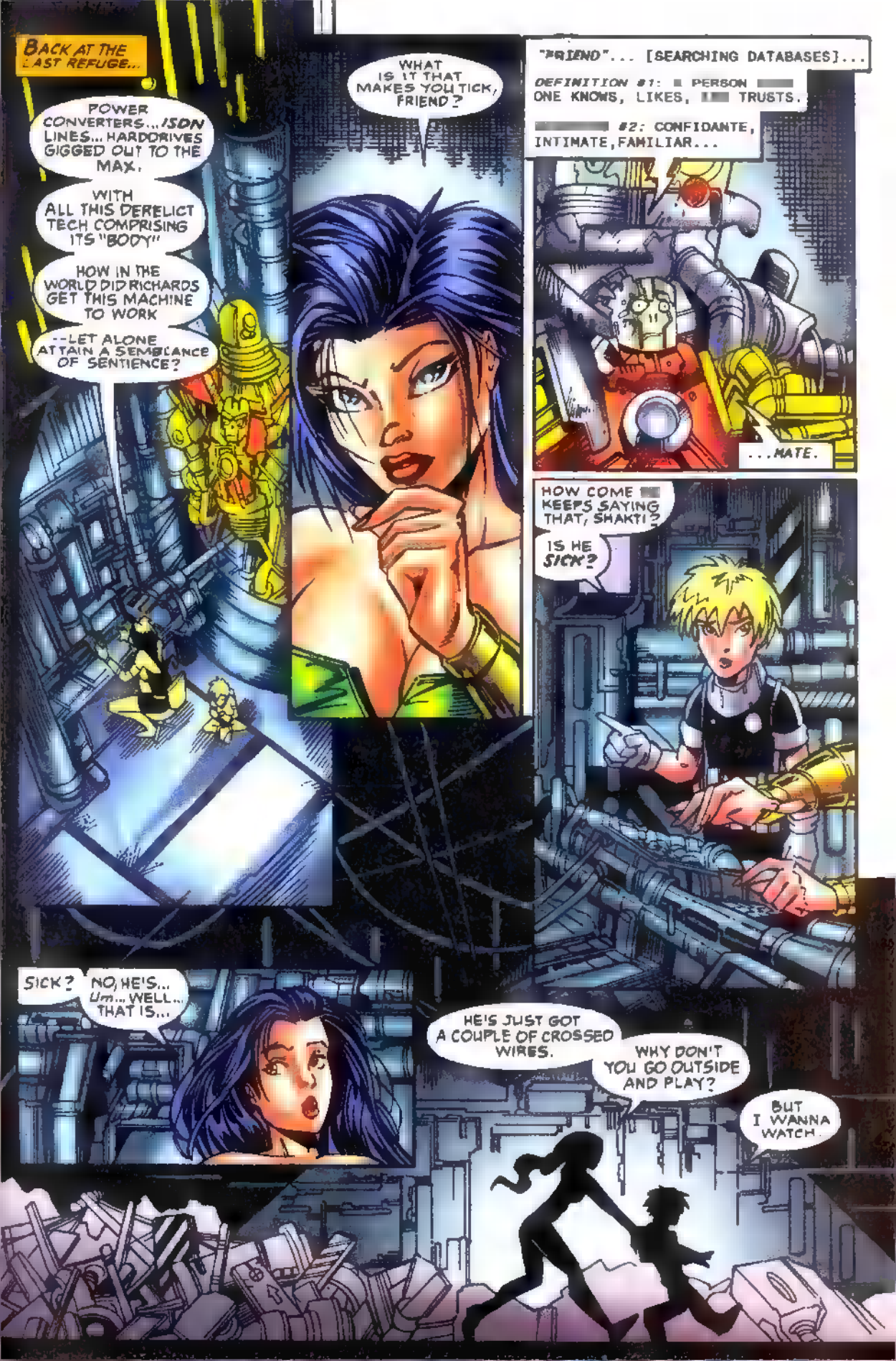

THE FATHERLAND...
I'M SO GLAD THAT THE ALL-[redacted] CONVINCED YOU TO JOIN OUR CAUSE, MIGUEL.
DOOM CAN BE VERY PERSUASIVE, XINA.
BUT AS SOON AS I GET A LEAD ON GABRI, ALL [redacted] OF US ARE OUTTA HERE!
I KNOW YOU'LL MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE--
--LIKE YOU HAVE SO MANY TIMES BEFORE.
SUCH OPEN REGARD FROM SO BRILLIANT A WOMAN--TO ONE SO UNDESERVING.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE JUST ABOUT FOUND A WAY TO SHIELD US FROM THE VIRUS, XINA...
...BUT CONTROLLING IT IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.
CONTROL IT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MIG?
O'HARA MISINTERPRETED A COMMENT I MADE EARLIER ABOUT OUR WORK HERE. IT IS NOT YOUR CONCERN.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH EXCLUSIVITY OF THOUGHT, FLESHLING--

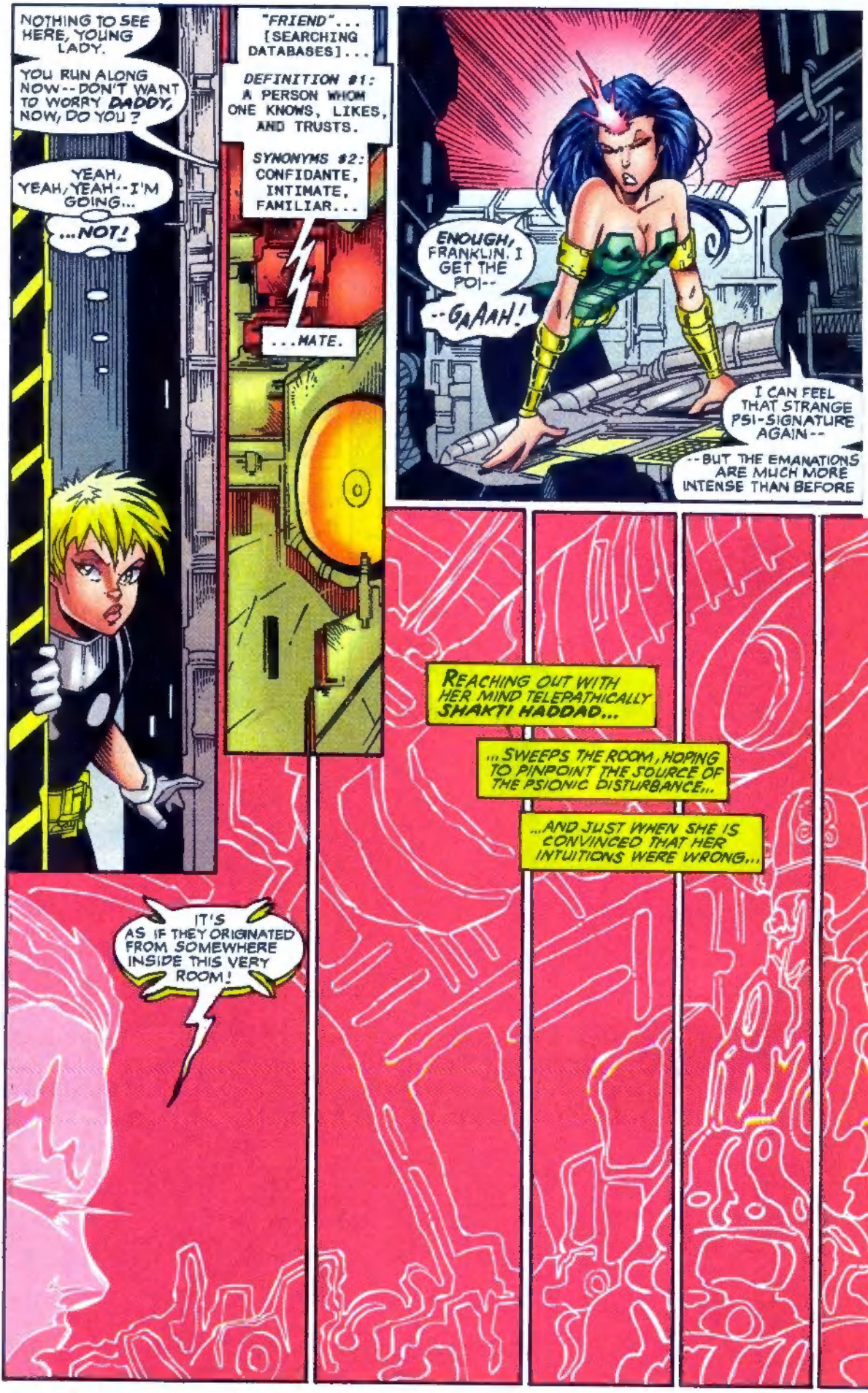

SECRETS CAN BE KEPT. LIES MAY BE SPUN.
THAT CLUNKY, OLD CYBER-DECK- MELTING?
DID YOU REALLY EXPECT TO KEEP YOUR FRAGILE PLAN TO CONTROL MY RACE A SECRET, DOOM?
MY CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN ON-LINE FOR A THOUSAND, THOUSAND YEARS!
GET BACK, XINA!
YOU STILL CANNOT FIND YOUR SCOUT EMISSARY! DEFY ME NOW AND YOU NEVER WILL.
I DON'T THINK HE'S BUYING IT, DOOMIE.
INSOLENT FOOL! I'VE HAD EYES ON THE SCOUT SINCE WE ENTERED ORBIT!
AS WE SPEAK, FIRST CONTACT IS BEING MADE! WITHIN MOMENTS--
--THE SCOUT WILL BE AWAKENED!
THE REBIRTH WILL BEGIN!
AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS OF DELAY, THE PHALANX WILL ASSIMILATE THE EARTH--
--LED BY MAGUS!

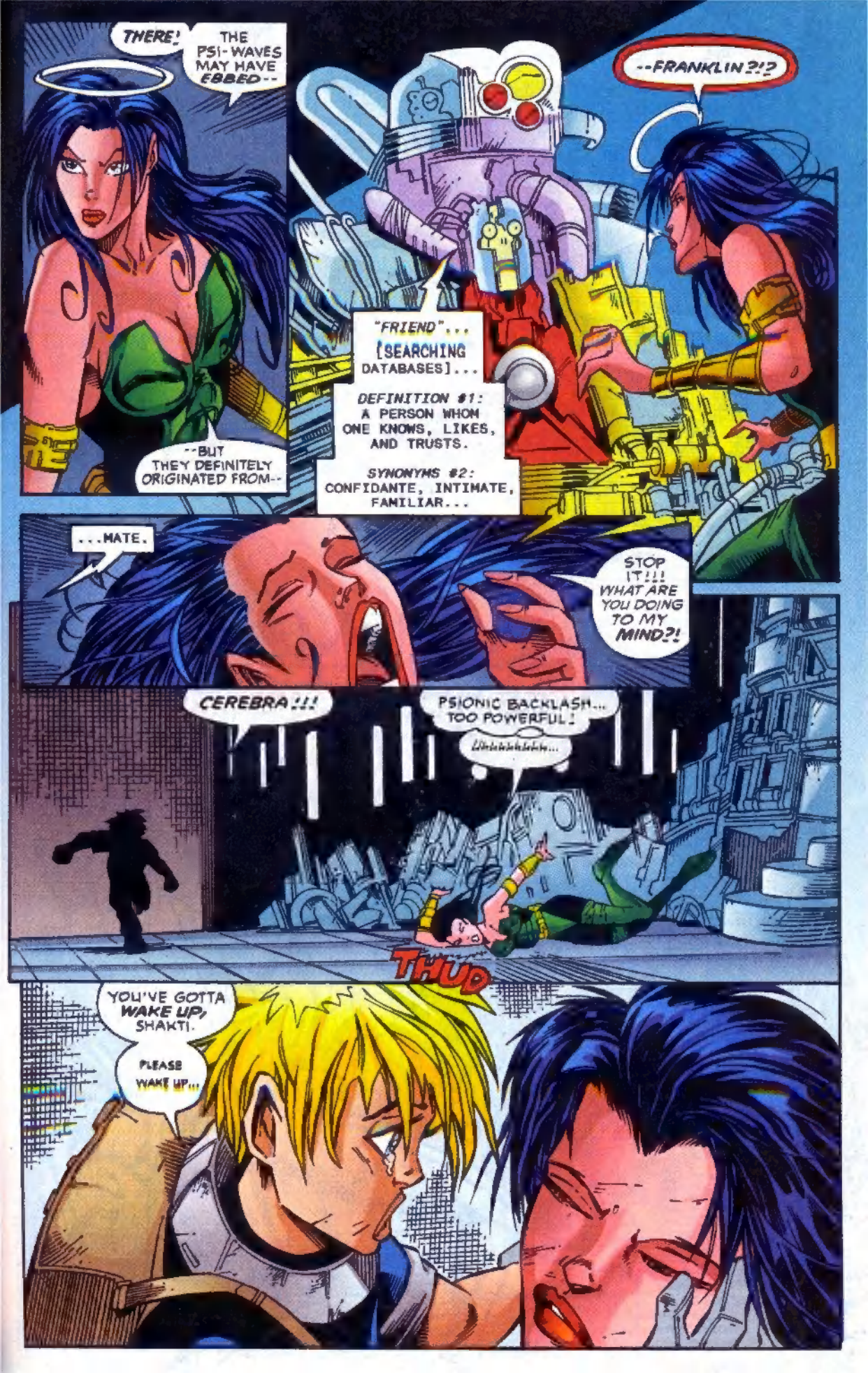
MARS
WHERE SMITH AND DECEMBER--
--MORE CONCERNED [redacted] MISSING FRIEND THEIR OWN SAFETY...
...ARE CLEARLY IN VIOLATION OF THE ARES COLONY CURFEW.
DEAD END, D.
PLACE [redacted] CRAWLING WITH WETWORKERS.
SHOCK!
YOU 'KAY, SMITH? YOU'RE, LIKE, TOTALLY TENSE.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU... Um... RELAX?
RISKING YOUR LIFE TO HELP ME IS MORE THAN ENOUGH, BABE.
WE'VE ONLY GOT A SMALL WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO GET PAST THESE GUYS, [redacted] ON MY MARK:
ONE...
TWO...
...THREE!!
AND JUST WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE THE COAST IS CLEAR...


TRIP
MY FOOT.
OH, SHOOK!
THIS UNIT REGISTERING AN UNIDENTIFIED E.B.E.
TERMINATION IS IMMINENT.
TERMINATE THIS, DIGI-DWEEB!
SAYONARA, SPARE PARTS!
SHAZAK
HUH? BUT I THOUGHT MY MAGNETIC POWERS WERE STRONGER HERE.
MAGNETIC ASSAULT INEFFECTUAL AGAINST ARTIFICIAL POLYPROPYLENE COATING.
THIS UNIT PROCEEDING WITH TERMINATION PROTOCOL...
I'M DEAD... I'M DEAD... I'M--
LUCKY FOR YOU, KIDS--
--I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE THE "OFF" SWITCH RIGHT HERE!
--NOT DEAD?!
KRUMPLE
WHAT GIVES? IT JUST COLLAPSED!
NOW, WHAT SAY WE GO FIND TWILIGHT...?
ISAACS!

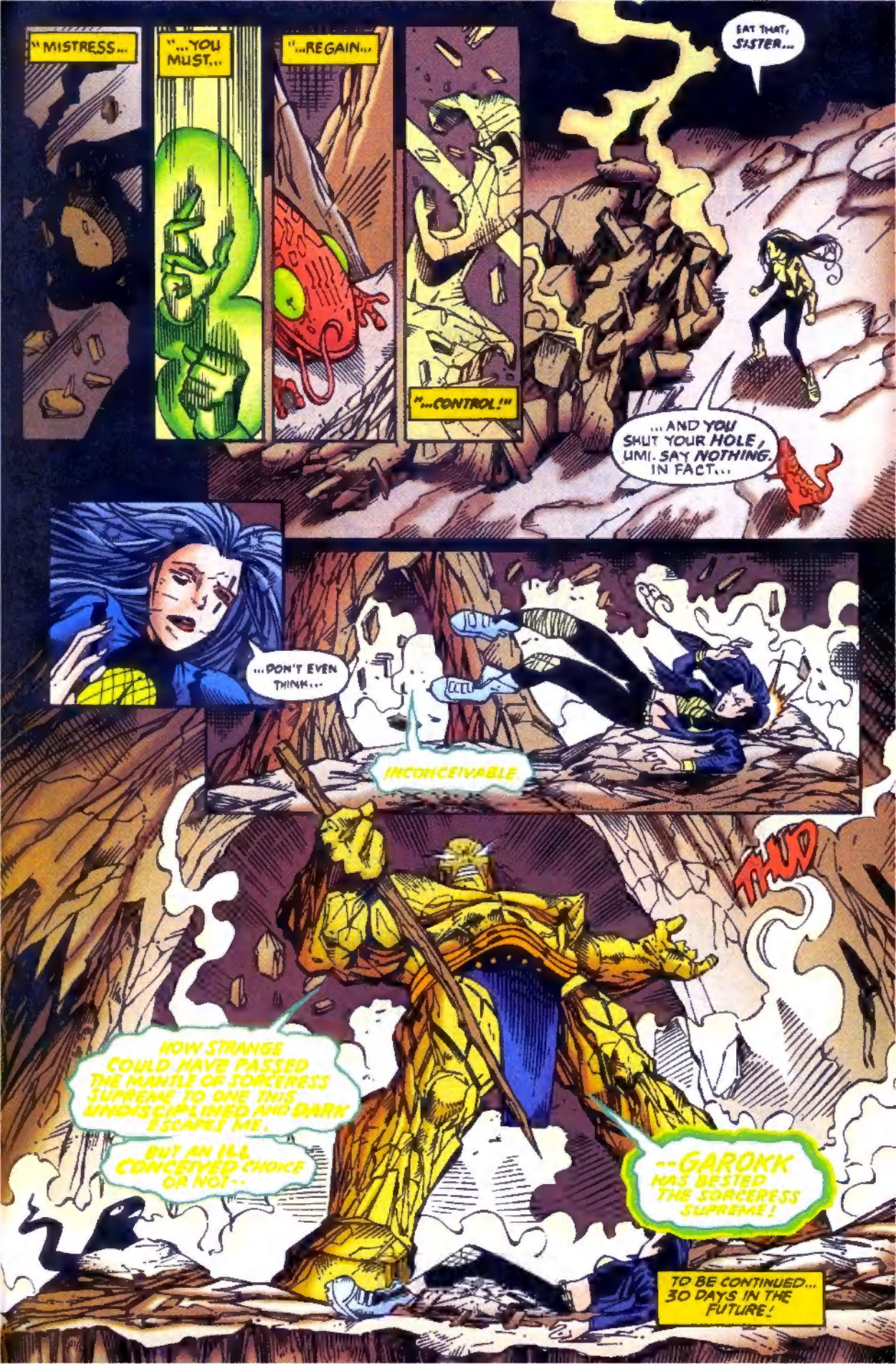

SOME TIME LATER AND MANY MILES FROM ARES BASE...
SO, WHY ARE YOU HELPING US, DR. ISAACS?
IT WAS SOMETHING YOUR FRIEND SAID--
--ABOUT NOT SAYING GOOD-BYE TO SOMETHING--SOMEONE--
--SHE'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN.
JUST LIKE YOU KIDS, I SACRIFICED A LOT BY COMING HERE.
WHEN IT CAME TO ARES, I THOUGHT--
--"IT'LL ONLY BE A MATTER OF MONTHS."
THEN I CAN RETURN TO EARTH AND SEE MY FAMILY--
--MY LITTLE BABY BOY-- AGAIN.
I GUESS THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN IF WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT EARTH BEING FLOODED IS TRUE.
FUNNY-- MY SON WOULD'VE BEEN ABOUT YOUR AGE BY NOW--
KABOOM
THUMP
UH, GUYS--
--I THINK WE'VE JUST BEEN TAKEN...


BACK AT THE LAST REFUGE...
POWER CONVERTERS... ISON LINES... HARDDRIVES GIGGED OUT TO THE MAX.
WITH ALL THIS DERELICT TECH COMPRISING ITS "BODY"
HOW IN THE WORLD DID RICHARDS GET THIS MACHINE TO WORK
--LET ALONE ATTAIN A SEMBLANCE OF SENTIENCE?
WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES YOU TICK, FRIEND?
"FRIEND"... [SEARCHING DATABASES]...
DEFINITION #1: [redacted] PERSON [redacted] ONE KNOWS, LIKES, [redacted] TRUSTS.
[redacted] #2: CONFIDANTE, INTIMATE, FAMILIAR...
...MATE.
HOW COME [redacted] KEEPS SAYING THAT, SHAKTI?
IS HE SICK?
SICK?
NO, HE'S... Um... WELL... THAT IS...
HE'S JUST GOT A COUPLE OF CROSSED WIRES.
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY?
BUT I WANNA WATCH.


NOTHING TO SEE HERE, YOUNG LADY.
YOU RUN ALONG NOW--DON'T WANT TO WORRY DADDY, NOW, DO YOU?
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH--I'M GOING...
...NOT!
"FRIEND"... [SEARCHING DATABASES]...
DEFINITION #1: A PERSON WHOM ONE KNOWS, LIKES, AND TRUSTS.
SYNONYMS #2: CONFIDANTE, INTIMATE, FAMILIAR...
...MATE.
ENOUGH, FRANKLIN. I GET THE PO!--
--GAAAH!
I CAN FEEL THAT STRANGE PSI-SIGNATURE AGAIN--
--BUT THE EMANATIONS ARE MUCH MORE INTENSE THAN BEFORE
REACHING OUT WITH HER MIND TELEPATHICALLY SHAKTI HADDAD...
...SWEEPS THE ROOM, HOPING TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE OF THE PSIONIC DISTURBANCE...
...AND JUST WHEN SHE IS CONVINCED THAT HER INTUITIONS WERE WRONG...
IT'S AS IF THEY ORIGINATED FROM SOMEWHERE INSIDE THIS VERY ROOM!


THERE!
THE PSI-WAVES MAY HAVE EBBED--
--BUT THEY DEFINITELY ORIGINATED FROM--
--FRANKLIN?!?
"FRIEND"... [SEARCHING DATABASES]...
DEFINITION #1: A PERSON WHOM ONE KNOWS, LIKES, AND TRUSTS.
SYNONYMS #2: CONFIDANTE, INTIMATE, FAMILIAR...
...MATE.
STOP IT!!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY MIND?!
CEREBRA!!!
PSIONIC BACKLASH... TOO POWERFUL!
Uhhhhhhhhhh...
THUD
YOU'VE GOTTA WAKE UP, SHAKTI.
PLEASE WAKE UP...

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I DIED, STRANGE?! WE WERE FRIENDS!
I-- HAD NO IDEA, CHIMERA! I WAS BUSY--
THIS IS A TRICK, MISTRESS. ANOTHER TEST OF CONTROL.
BUSY TAKING CARE OF THE SAME SELF-CENTERED WITCH WHO LEFT ME TO ROT IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT--
CHOOM
FUNNY, YOU WERE SINGING THE SAME TUNE AFTER YOU KILLED YOUR BROTHER!!
SKOOOW
NOOOO!
DON'T BRING UP MY BROTHER!
PTSCH
MISTRESS! HE'S TRYING TO PROVOKE YOU INTO SQUANDERING YOUR POWER!
DON'T MENTION HIM EVER!!


"MISTRESS...
"...YOU MUST...
"...REGAIN...
"...CONTROL!"
EAT THAT, SISTER...
...AND YOU SHUT YOUR HOLE, UMI. SAY NOTHING. IN FACT...
...DON'T EVEN THINK...
INCONCEIVABLE.
THUD
HOW STRANGE COULD HAVE PASSED THE MANTLE OF SORCERESS SUPREME TO ONE THIS UNDISCIPLINED AND DARK ESCAPES ME.
BUT AN ILL CONCEIVED CHOICE OR NOT--
--GAROKK HAS BESTED THE SORCERESS SUPREME!
TO BE CONTINUED... 30 DAYS IN THE FUTURE!